REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been examined. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary Matters

The present Office Action issued prior to the submission of the December 20, 2002 IDS. Therefore, Applicant requests the Examiner to acknowledge the December 20, 2002 IDS, and to include a copy of the initialed form PTO-1449 with the next Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended, as shown in the attached Appendix, merely to correct minor errors. The amendments clearly do not narrow the scope of the claim and are not made in response to any prior art rejection.

In addition, Applicant has amended the specification, as shown in the attached Appendix, to correct minor errors.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,473,735 to Murakami ("Murakami")

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami. However, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, in claim 5, a first memory section stores image data, and the stored image data is converted into print data. Further, a second memory section stores the unconverted image data stored in the first memory section after the converted print data is printed.

On the other hand, referring to column 2, lines 53-54 of Murakami, unconverted print data is stored in a first storage means. The unconverted print data is then converted to dot image data, and a portion of the converted dot image data is stored in the second storage means (col. 2, lines 55-59). The converted dot image data can then be printed to a recording medium (col. 2, lines 59-61). A third storage means is also utilized which stores the converted dot image data prior to a re-printing operation in the event of an incompletely printed page (col. 3, lines 4-6).

As noted above, in claim 5, "unconverted" data is stored in the first memory section and converted to print data. The "unconverted" data, which is contained in the first memory section, is stored in the second memory section. On the other hand, in Murakami, unconverted data (i.e. print data) is stored in the first storage means and converted to print data (i.e. dot image data). Then, the converted data is stored in the second storage means and, if a re-printing process is required, a third storage mean is utilized to store the converted data.

The Examiner maintains that the claimed second memory section is shown by the third storage means of Murakami. However as stated above, the third storage means stores converted dot image data. Since claim 5 recites that second memory section stores "unconverted" image data, the third storage means of Murakami fails to suggest the second memory section of claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 5 is not anticipated by the cited reference, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,806,005 to Hull et al. ("Hull") in view of Murakami

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull in view of Murakami.

A. Claim 1

The Examiner maintains that the combination of Hull and Murakami suggest the image data printing system of claim 1. However, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 contains similar features, i.e. second memory section, as recited in claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Murakami for analogous reasons as stated above in the discussion of claim 5. In addition, the Hull reference fails to cure the deficient teachings of Murakami.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of the cited references, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 depends on claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 3

The Examiner maintains that the combination of Hull and Murakami suggest the image data printing method of claim 3. However, Applicant submits that claim 3 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 3 contains similar features as recited in claim 5, i.e. storing

image data in a second memory section. Therefore, claim 3 is patentable over Murakami for analogous reasons as stated above in the discussion of claim 5. In addition, the Hull reference fails to cure the deficient teachings of Murakami.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 3 is patentable over the combination of the cited references, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

D. Claim 4

Since claims 4 depends on claim 3, Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Newly added claims

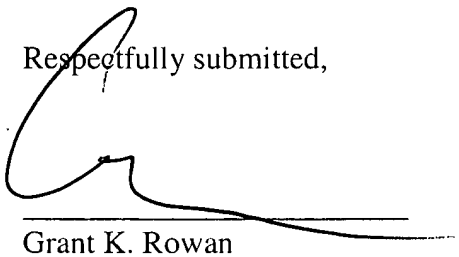
Applicant has added claims 6-12 to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 2, first full paragraph is amended as follows:

In case that not only the image data recorded by the digital camera but also the image data stored in the memory device of the server computer is printed, a user utilizes a PC connected to the server computer through communication means to search [an image of his hope]a desired image stored in the memory device of the [sever]server computer, and while the image data of the [image of his hope]desired image received through the communication means is being converted into print data capable of being recognized by the printer, by [use]utilizing the PC, the print operation is performed.

Page 7, second full paragraph is amended as follows:

In a step S301, the printer 2 receives the image data stored in the hard disc of the server computer 1 through the communication means in accordance with instructions given by the user to the input device 3 or the printer 2. In case that the input device 3 is, for example, a digital camera, when the user instructs on execution of printing of [an image of his hope]a desired image through an instructing section provided for the digital camera, the instruction of the print execution is transmitted to the server computer 1, so that the server computer 1 transmits the image data stored in the hard disc 11 to the printer 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An image data printing system comprising:

an image data memory device for storing image data therein;

a print device including:

a first memory section obtaining and storing the image data stored in said image data memory device therein;

print data making means for converting the image data stored in said first memory section into print data every time execution of print is instructed;

a print section capable of printing an image according to said print data;

a second memory section storing the image data stored in said first memory section after the print section has completed printing; and

a communication device including communication sections for transmitting and receiving the image data which are provided respectively for said image data memory device and said print device, and communication passages for [connection]connecting said communication sections to each other.

Claims 6-12 are added as new claims.